

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD CHAIRS YOUTH VIOLENCE TASK FORCE Twelve Member Panel Proposes Solutions to Youth Violence

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO), Chairman of the Senate Youth Violence Task Force, announced today his twelve member task force has identified several possible solutions to reducing youth violence. These ideas will be discussed this week as the Senate debates the Juvenile Justice Bill.

“There is no simple solution for this complex problem,” Allard said. “We need to take a look at the laws that are already on the books and make sure that we are enforcing those laws before we create new laws.”

The three areas that the task force focused their efforts on were: stronger enforcement of existing laws, creating a safer school environment, and examining our nation’s cultural decline.

Stronger Enforcement of Existing Laws

- Enhance penalties for firearms offenses to ensure that juveniles who commit violent crimes will be held accountable for their actions.
- Create a ‘special registrant’ that would allow dealers to contact the National Institute of Crime Statistics (NICS) at a gun show and create a special optional license for non-dealers who wish to sell firearms at a gun show.
- Restrict youth access to semiautomatic assault weapons by including ‘semiautomatic weapons’ to the Youth Handgun Safety Act.
- Project CUFF would allow for \$50 million to be used to hire additional federal prosecutors to prosecute gun crimes in federal court, to take advantage of stiff federal sentences and bond rules.

Create Safer Schools

- Train school personnel, including custodians and bus drivers, in the identification of potential threats.
- Amend current law to state affirmatively that nothing in federal law shall prohibit a school from instituting a dress code or school uniform policy.

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- Allow schools to remove from the classroom any IDEA student who has a weapon or threatens to use a weapon at school in the same manner they can discipline non-IDEA students.
- Establish a school security technology center that would be a resource for school security.
- When a student transfers to public or private school, the student's records must be made available.

Examine Our Cultural Decline

- Initiate an entertainment industry code of conduct that would exempt the industry from certain antitrust provisions in order to develop a viable code of conduct.
- Study the effects of violent entertainment on children under the age of 18 and to determine whether the industry markets violence to children.
- Encourage internet service providers to offer screening/filtering and prohibit the the posting of bomb making instructions.
- Regulate or prohibit the use of federal property in the making of excessively violent movies.
- Allow students/faculty of a public school to hold memorial services or place a memorial on school ground that includes religious prayer and symbols in situations where someone is killed on school grounds.

The task force discussed over 45 possible amendments to this week's Juvenile Justice bill currently being debated on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

"I am very proud of the efforts that have been made by the members of this task force," Allard said. "This is just a start, real progress will only be accomplished through a long term commitment from all Americans to be more involved in young people's lives."

The 12 member task force Chaired by Allard included Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Senators John Ashcroft (R-MO), Sam Brownback (R-KS), Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO), Paul Coverdell (R-GA), Larry Craig (R-ID), Mike DeWine (R-OH), Judd Gregg (R-NH), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Tim Hutchinson (R-AR), and Jeff Sessions (R-AL).